

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /076 W  
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R 262135Z JUL 77  
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9257  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS MONTREAL 1221

E. O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, CA, PGOV  
SUBJ: WHO BLINKS FIRST - ENGLISH SCHOOLS OR PQ GOVERNMENT?

1. AT CLOSED MEETING YESTERDAY ORGANIZED BY QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, PARENTS REPRESENTING OVER 100 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SCHOOLS IN QUEBEC VOTED TO OPPOSE BILL 101 AND OPEN SCHOOLS TO SOME STUDENTS WHO WOULD BE PROHIBITED ENTRY UNDER PENDING PQ LEGISLATION.

2. DISAGREEMENT WITH PQ GOVERNMENT CAME TO HEAD WHEN GOVERNMENT ASKED SCHOOLS TO RE-REGISTER STUDENTS ACCORDING TO GUIDELINES TO BE ESTABLISHED IN BILL 101, INCLUDING REQUIREMENT THAT AT LEAST ONE PARENT OF STUDENT WAS EDUCATED IN ENGLISH IN QUEBEC. SCHOOLS ARGUE THAT REGISTRATION FOR COMING SCHOOL YEAR WERE COMPLETED IN MARCH, WHEN PREVIOUS REGULATIONS UNDER BILL 22 APPLIED, AND THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO RE-REGISTER STUDENTS.

3. EDUCATION MINISTER JACQUES-YVAN MORIN HAD PREVIOUSLY THREAT- ENED LOSS OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR "ILLEGAL" STUDENTS ALLOWED ENTRY INTO ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SCHOOLS. TO COVER POSSIBLE LOSS OF GRANTS, SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES AT MEETING DECIDED TO ASK ALL QUEBECKERS OPPOSED TO BILL 101 TO CONTRIBUTE DOLS 1.01. INDUSTRY  
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WILL BE ASKED FOR LARGER CONTRIBUTIONS.

4. AT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE MEETING, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE GROUP SAID THAT: "WE DO NOT CONSIDER THIS PLAN OF ACTION AN ACT OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE. WE PREFER THE TERM 'NON-COMPLIANCE' TO 'CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE'. PARENTS ARE WELL WITHIN THEIR RIGHTS IF THEY CHOOSE TO DISOBEY A LAW WHICH THEY BELIEVE TO BE MANIFESTLY

ILLEGAL."

5. IN OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN AT MEETING, REPRESENTATIVES VOTED TO:

- REQUEST A MEETING WITH PREMIER LEVESQUE TO DISCUSS BILL 101;
- ASK LT. GOV. LAPOINTE TO REFUSE TO GIVE ROYAL ASSENT IF

BILL IN ITS PRESENT FORM IS APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY;

- CHALLENGE BILL LEGALLY IN THE COURTS.

6. COMMENT: ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS 130,000 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE STUDENTS IN QUEBEC AND PQ ARE NOW EYEBALL-TO-EYEBALL. GOVERNMENT CAN HARDLY AFFORD TO TOLERATE WHAT CAN ONLY BE CONSTRUED AS CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE. YET WHILE GOVERNMENT WOULD APPEAR TO HOLD HIGH CARD IN ABILITY TO WITHHOLD GRANTS, SUCH ACTION WOULD PROBABLY BE SEEN AS EXTREME BY MANY AND WOULD RAISE TENSIONS TO LEVEL THAT MORE MODERATE ELEMENTS OF PQ GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING PREMIER LEVESQUE, WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE.

7. ON OTHER HAND, SOLIDARITY OF ENGLISH SCHOOLS IF GOING GETS TOUGHER MAY ALSO BE QUESTIONABLE. HEAD OF PROTESTANT TEACHERS UNION HAS ALREADY SAID THAT TEACHERS WOULD NOT AGREE TO BIGGER WORKLOAD IF SCHOOL BOARDS ACCEPTED STUDENTS FROM WHOM GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT GIVE GRANTS.

8. MEETING WAS NOTEWORTHY NOT ONLY FOR DECISIONS REACHED, BUT FOR PRECAUTIONS TAKEN TO CONTROL ATTENDANCE. IN INTEREST OF PROMOTING FREE EXPRESSION, NOT ONLY WAS PRESS BARRED, BUT PARENTS, UNCLASSIFIED

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INCLUDING REPORTING OFFICER, NOT OFFICIALLY ACCREDITED TO APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS WERE DENIED ENTRY.

9. AS FURTHER FLAVOR OF MONTREAL ATMOSPHERICS, WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT ON SAME DAY PARENTS WERE MEETING, MORE THAN 100 PROMINENT QUEBECKERS SIGNED A STATEMENT DENOUNCING BILL 101 AS A DISASTROUS LANGUAGE LAW THAT WILL DIVIDE AND ISOLATE QUEBECKERS AND CRIPPLE LOCAL BUSINESS. LETTER WAS SIGNED BY PROMINENT BUSINESS LEADERS, SUBURBAN MAYORS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND NUMBER OF EDUCATORS. WITH STUDENTS IN QUEBEC'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SCHOOLS HAVING BEEN OUT FOR EXTENDED PERIODS DURING LAST TWO YEARS DUE TO LABOR DISAGREEMENTS, AND WITH THE COMING YEAR HARDLY LIKELY TO ELICIT MUCH OPTIMISM, THERE MUST BE MANY PARENTS WHO ARE SERIOUSLY WONDERING WHETHER THEY CURE MAY NOT KILL THE PATIENT.

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## Message Attributes

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